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NEWS RELEASE: AUSTIN'S COMPLETE STREETS POLICY WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

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Smart Growth America has recognized the City of Austin's policy in its "Best Complete Streets Policies of 2014" [report](#), which features a multimodal image of Guadalupe Street in Austin on the cover.

The National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America, reviewed more than 70 policies adopted in the United States in 2014 and ranked Austin's policy third in the nation. Nationwide, 712 jurisdictions in 48 states now have Complete Streets policies.

Austin City Council adopted a robust Complete Streets policy with eight ambitious principles in June 2014. It commits to making Austin's streets safe, comfortable and convenient for people of all ages and abilities. The policy also commits to making streets beautiful, interesting and comfortable places for people and making them greener places that protect Austin's sustainability and environment.

"Our complete streets policy and program define a powerful framework for thinking about Austin streets," said Austin Transportation Director Robert Spillar. "It's about making our streets safer and more equitable, as we expand people's choices. Streets are for vehicle travel, but we also want them to be great places to walk, ride a bike, catch a bus, throw a baseball with a child, or open a small business. It's all part of keeping Austin an appealing, economically vibrant place to live."

Since the policy's adoption, Austin Transportation and other City departments have been actively engaged in policy implementation. Completing streets is a gradual process that requires both the private and public sectors. Every street is approached individually, depending on how people use it and its character – residential or commercial, two lanes or four. While a quiet neighborhood street may be fine as it is, a busy major corridor often needs new infrastructure to make it complete, such as a protected bike lane, wider sidewalks, or features for people using transit.

"Austin's 2014 Complete Streets policy is exciting because it challenges us to set the bar higher," said Complete Streets Program Manager Katherine Gregor. "Austin has added some 200 miles of new bicycle facilities to our streets over the past decade. We've built new sidewalks, planted street trees, and added MetroRapid and B-Cycle stations all around town. We've enhanced the public realm in Downtown through our Great Streets Program. So our complete streets policy builds on that solid track record of success – and defines how we can do even better."

Tours are available to the media and interested community groups, to showcase areas in Austin that have received recent complete streets improvements.

View Austin's Complete Streets policy [here](#).

The National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America, is a non-profit, non-partisan alliance of public interest organizations and transportation professionals committed to the development and implementation of

Complete Streets policies and practices.

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